



## City of Hampton, VA

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov)

### NOTICE OF ACTION

#### City Council - Public Comment Period

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 - 6:01 PM

W. H. "Billy" Hobbs, Jr.  
Will Moffett  
Chris Snead

Christopher G. Stuart  
Donnie R. Tuck  
George E. Wallace

Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor

**Staff:**

*Mary Bunting, City Manager*  
*Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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#### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Ward called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All members of Council were present.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Raynard Vinson thanked Council for their service and indicated his support for a pay raise for city staff in 2013.

Linda Seely spoke in praise of the City Council and City Manager.

Carole Garrison, representing the Virginia Peninsula League of Women Voters, spoke in opposition to the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor. (The Mayor passed the gavel to the Vice Mayor during this speaker.)

David Dietrich spoke about the National Defense Authorization Act and indicated that he can't hear sirens from the nuclear plant across the water. He suggested that the use of the city seal should be revisited by Council. He spoke in opposition to the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor and on political signage in public rights of ways expressing that if the signs aren't removed in time, the violaters should be fined.

Eddie Deerfield spoke about the Virginia Municipal League and National League of Cities and made suggestions concerning changes to the way Council receives public input at their meetings.

Edwin Boone recited his poem, Insight, and called for the City Manager's resignation in connection with undercover cigarette investigation.

Tom Gear, representing himself and James River Journal, stated he filed a freedom of information act request on November 1st for the text, email and telephone log between Chief Jordan and Mayor Ward and asked why the Mayor wouldn't release the information.

Marcellus Harris, Jr. introduced himself as the new President of the Coalition for Justice for Civil Rights and stated that he wants to work in a more conciliatory manner with the city staff and Council and doesn't want to be adversarial.

Gaylene Kanoyton spoke in support of the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor. (The Mayor passed the gavel to the Vice Mayor during this speaker.) She indicated the political theater must stop and stated that the citizens shouldn't be involved in all decisions but should have input when selecting a new police chief. She expressed that anyone being considered for police chief should have a strong urban background. She renewed her request for making all school board seats at-large and suggested that people research what they recently voted on regarding eminent domain.

Brother Ankh, a member of the Coalition for Justice for Civil Rights, made a special announcement withdrawing its action calling for the resignation of City Manager and stated they wish to correct any error the group may have made. He offered a sincere apology to Ms. Bunting for any damage to her good name and reputation.

Ramona Frazier stated, with respect to the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor, her opinion that any vacant seat should be filled by special election, not by appointment. (The Mayor passed the gavel to the Vice Mayor during this speaker.)

Rudy Langford stated he opposes the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor and thinks it should be deferred for citizen input. (The Mayor passed the gavel to the Vice Mayor during this speaker.)

Jim Harris suggested the proposed charter change concerning election of the Mayor should be deferred for a year so citizens can get a better understanding. He also stated that he has met with most of Council and many of the city staff in the past few weeks and has found them to be very diverse, knowledgeable, accessible and willing to listen. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work of Council and staff for the citizens of Hampton.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

### **Contact Info:**

**Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, [council@hampton.gov](mailto:council@hampton.gov)**